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Newsletter

FROM THE GENERAL OFFICE OF THE ARMENIAN MISSIONARY ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA, INC.  
140 FOREST AVENUE, PARAMUS, N.J. 07652

Editor G. H. CHOPOURIAN

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## VARTANANTZ DECLARATION 451 A.D.

“From this confession none ever can shake us, neither angels nor men, neither sword, fire, water nor any bitter tortures. All our goods and chattel we commit into your hands; our bodies also are at your disposal. Do as you will. If you choose to leave us in the free exercise of this faith, we on our part will exchange you for no other lord on earth; neither, however, will we own in heaven any other Lord than Jesus Christ only, besides whom there is no God.”

“.....there is nothing in all creation that will ever be able to separate us from the love of God which is ours through Christ Jesus our Lord.”

Romans 8:39b (Good News for Modern Man)

398-82



## The Future Of Our Organization

John K. Keuhnlian



As your President for the coming year, I wish to share some thoughts about the present, the past, and the future of our Organization.

As most of you know, our Association was organized as the Missionary Arm of the Armenian Evangelical Union some 56 years ago in Worcester, Massachusetts. The A.M.A.A. has since grown into a substantial endeavor, especially during the past two decades, with an international impact not only involving the Middle East but areas as far apart as Australia and South America. Certainly, during at least the last 40 or more years of our existence, our efforts have been in a constructive direction assisting our brethren and their children in re-establishing and bettering themselves following the horrible desecration of life and property which constitutes our modern inheritance. We are now faced with the "Lebanese Crisis" of which you are all too well aware. Fortunately, the situation is not exactly analogous to the past in that there is no wholesale slaughter and persecution of our fellow Armenians. However, as "relative neutrals" in a country stricken with civil war, many are innocent victims of fighting without food or shelter and are the beneficiaries of all the hardships that are indigenous to such a conflict.

Consequently, our present efforts in the Middle East are more of a holding action to provide needed relief and to maintain the threads of our educational system until lasting peace can be restored. I am hardly a political expert but at this writing my reasonably optimistic view that some form of

## EMERGENCY

Last week, during a visit to New York City, I was met at the train by a young man with his right arm in a sling—the Rev. Jirair Sogomian, Chaplain of the Haigazian College in Beirut, Lebanon. Some of you may have already heard that he was shot in the hand by a sniper in Beirut during the height of the fighting between Moslems and Christians that has brought that noble and great city to the edge of full-fledged civil war.

Jirair and I have been close friends and colleagues in the ministry. He was pastor of our Detroit church prior to his assignment as Chaplain of Haigazian College. As we sat down to talk things over I was deeply moved by the story he recounted—a story that is hard to believe and yet so very, very true. He played for me a tape recording of the actual fighting going on in Beirut. With the sound of guns firing and rockets bursting he has recorded his impressions of a struggle for the control of a city which until now has been the jewel of the Middle East. And the question that kept cropping up time and time again was, "What about the Armenian people in Lebanon?"

Several of our Armenian institutions have been severely damaged. He witnessed all the window panes of one high school building crash down from concussion caused by a rocket blast. The administration building of Haigazian college was gutted by rocket fire. A number of our people have been killed in the fighting, but no one knows their number yet. He helped lead a convoy of old men and women away from a danger zone while for hours snipers tried to pick them off! Having already sent his family back to America, Rev. Sogomian abandoned his apartment, his office and his car, and flew back to the U.S.A. as soon as he could.

One of the points he kept making over and over again was, "Vartkes, we must send relief aid to our people in Beirut. Hundreds are destitute, having lost all! The city is paralyzed, and it is up to us to do something about their needs." I promised him I would rally our people to respond as generously as we can. Our church must now consider this emergency as a top priority mission objective. My conscience will simply not allow me to close my ears, my eyes and my heart to this plea...A church that does not respond in times such as these has lost its credibility of being a church of Jesus Christ. I call on all our members to send in special contributions for such a relief fund which we will send to Lebanon by means of the Armenian Missionary Association. Such relief is not for strangers, it is for your own flesh and blood!

V. M. Kassouni

settlement would be reached materialized as of January 27, 1976 and it's my cherished hope that the ceasefire will hold. In this regard, your Board has formed a Long-term Planning and Goals Committee to be chaired by our most respected immediate past President, Dr. Edward M. Kavjian. This Committee will not only reassess our direction in the Middle East, especially as the political situation evolves, but also our thrust throughout the entire world where Armenian Evangelicals may be located and particularly the needs right here within the United States and Canada. I expect this to become a vital committee in our organization since we should utilize the combined efforts of our keenest minds to see beyond the horizon and prepare for future needs.

I also wish to mention some of our expanding activities at home. Although still on a comparatively small scale, the activities of your Scholarship Committee in providing funds for worthy students in this country have been

substantially enlarged. As we hopefully return to a "constructive phase" we will welcome Endowment Funds earmarked for this purpose. Your Publications Committee is planning several books in English which will not only be pertinent but also interesting to our membership. You will receive additional information as these projects evolve.

As part of my duties, I will welcome any letters and comments which you may care to direct to me personally through the A.M.A.A. office in Paramus. I will try to answer each of your queries. If any of these concerns may be of general interest to our readership, and do not involve delicate political nuances, I will endeavor to discuss them directly in forthcoming issues of the Newsletter.

Last, and most important, I seek the thoughts and prayers of each and every one of you that your officers, your Board of Directors, and your Executive Secretary be given the guidance and strength to direct wisely the affairs of your Association for this coming year.

## RELIEF FOR OUR LEBANESE COMPATRIOTES



### Quarantina Before Destruction

Dear Compatriots in Christ—

Once again, there is a challenge to your active faith—that of translating your sympathy to salvaging your compatriots in Lebanon.

Tragic events have been taking place in Lebanon during the last few months—continuous crippling fear, insane destruction, uncalled for bloodshed and death. A sizeable segment of the quarter million Armenian population has been affected very adversely, with a possible 200 or 300 dead. Fortunately the strife has ceased. It is time for rebuilding.

Eyewitness accounts tell us of untold loss, human suffering and misery especially among the daily wage earners who have been unemployed for a couple of months now. Several buildings have sustained damage from rockets and mortar. Teachers have not received their salaries for about six months.

Unbelievable as it may seem some families have been crushed five times in one lifetime—the 1915 tragedy, the 1920 self-exile from Cilicia, the Alexandretta sell-out, the Palestine exodus, and the October events in Beirut. They must rise again!

The love of Christ compels us to respond to the needs of the "least of these our brothers." Please remember our compatriots in Lebanon are in critical need. Consider their need to be a priority and be self-giving, with the assurance that we shall find blessedness in our giving and sharing.

It is an opportune time to translate our sympathy to salvaging. PLEASE, PLEASE BE VERY GENEROUS. Thank you in Christ's name.

V.H. Tootikian  
Moderator, AEUNA  
G.H. Chopourian  
Executive Secretary, AMAA

## REV. SARKIS F. CONSULIAN OF YEREVAN SETTLES IN PASADENA

The Rev. Sarkis Consulian was born in 1898 in Kharpert, Turkey, in an Armenian Catholic family. In 1915, he suffered all the atrocities of the Turks and lost his entire family, he himself escaping from certain death many times. By a miracle, he reached Aleppo, and for some time he was sheltered at Rev. Eskijian's orphanage. It was here that he had the blessed experience of being "born again".

Before World War I ended, the Turks forced the transfer of all the orphan children of the Rev. Hovhannes Eskijian and Miss Ronair to Turkish orphanages with the intention of converting these children to Islam. With six other "saved" friends, Sarkis Consulian refused to accept the forced Islamic religion and was ready to be martyred. However, through God's grace, the November 11, 1918 Armistice was signed and all Armenian



orphans were saved from Turkish suppression.

Eager for education, Sarkis Consul-

## The Inspirational Corner

### MY PRAYER

Oh, thank you, God, for little things  
Entrusted to my care;  
I cannot do the mighty deeds,  
So let me do my share  
Of little things, to help my fellowmen,  
This is my prayer.  
If I can help someone depressed  
To find some joy anew,

Or speak a word of kindness  
To one downcast and blue,  
Then I will feel today I've done  
As you would have me do.  
Or maybe you would have me soothe  
A little child, hurt while at play,  
Or help a tiny drooping flower  
To blossom by the way,

Or give some troubled child of Thine  
New courage for the day.  
So thank you, God, for little things  
Entrusted to my care.  
Just let me help some child of Thine,  
Somebody in despair.  
Just let me help the needy ones—  
Dear God, this my prayer.

—Florence Jones Burdge



## TELFEYAN EVANGELICAL FUND ANNOUNCES AID TO STUDENTS FOR FIVE COLLEGES

Announcement has been made of a new College Scholarship Program by the Telfeyan Evangelical Fund of New York, a family philanthropic trust principally aiding in educational and charitable grants and loans to Armenians or Armenian descendants with need and ability. Funds for the first year of this program are available at five universities throughout the country including Adelphi University, the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences at Columbia University, the University of Chicago, the Shcool of Graduate Medicine at Stanford University, and the McGeorge School of Law at the University of the Pacific.

Sarkis A. Telfeyan, M.D., the Fund's president, is from Great Neck. Robert Telfeyan of Manhasset is treasurer and John Telfeyan of East Williston is secretary. Gary Telfeyan, president of Telfeyan Carpets of Garden City, Garabed Telfeyan and Norman A. Bailey, Ph.D., all Garden City residents, are directors of the Fund which was established in the early 1900's and is one of several such Funds in the Telfeyan family.

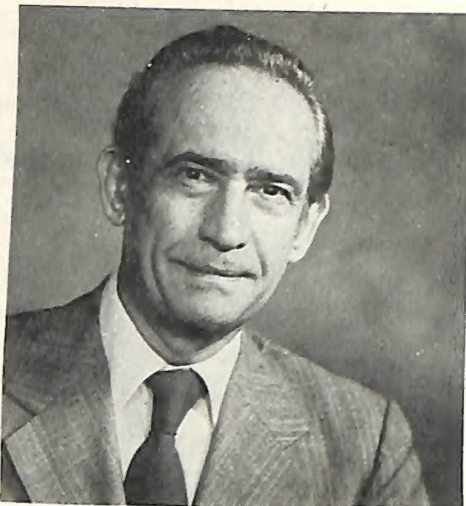
ian was soon accepted in the American Colleges in Darson and Smyrna. However, he was taken prisoner by the Turks with twenty other students during the disaster of Smyrna. After suffering nine months of imprisonment, he was freed through the intervention of some American friends and was taken to Greece. From Greece he went to Austria, where he received his theological education.

He has been a pastor as well as a teacher in Bulgaria, Egypt and Armenia. In Armenia his long years of service were very helpful as there were no other ordained ministers. Through the constant efforts of Rev. Consulian, the evangelical community in Yerevan was organized and built its own church, thus bringing about a limited spiritual awakening which continues to this day.

Due to old age and poor health, Rev. Consulian was obliged to leave behind his beloved and flourishing church and come to the United States. Before his departure, he had appointed two devoted and committed brothers as his successors to God's wonderful work.

Welcome, Rev. and Mrs. Consulian.

## THE SOME, MORE AND MOST OF VARTANANTZ



What can be said that is new on Vartanantz after 1,525 years of recognition of the event?

I. Actually, the facts and details of the Vartanantz event can be related with *some*, but not very great difficulty.

Jezdegerd II of Persia designed to make Mazdaism the uniform faith of his empire and with his edict of 449 A.D. commanded all nations to bend the knee to the god of Zoroastrianism. But more specifically, one day in an effort to confute the Christian faith, he highlighted the principles of the Mazdaian faith in a letter to Armenian nobles, clergy and lay alike, and requested an answer by letter or in person.

The Synod of Artaxata, with eighteen bishops and Catholicos Joseph, set forth the fundamentals of the Christian faith and declared: "From this confession none can ever shake us...." Not satisfied, the Persian king demanded that ten nobles present themselves at the Persian capital. Vartan along with the clergy and lay nobles, subjected themselves to the demands of the king after torture, worshipped the Mazdaian god and were permitted to return home to propagate Zoroastrianism. At home, the ten nobles recanted and determined to "Resist unto Blood." This posture eventually led to the war of 451 A.D. at Avarayr. The battle was lost, but not the spirit to resist. The standard of revolt was raised in 481 A.D. under Vahan Mamigonian and by 484 A.D. the Persian King Valarsaces granted the three conditions for peace demanded by Vahan, namely, (1) complete religious liberty, (2) the placing of

Armenia under the direct jurisdiction of the king, and (3) the placing to office all civil officers and men of good character.

II. The interpretation of the battle of Avarayr, however, is *more* difficult. Why did the Persian king press the Armenians to renege on their faith? Was it their desire to make their religious truths the accepted faith of all? Was it a political move as a diversion to remove attention from weaknesses in Persia? Was it an attempt for solidifying the nation? Was it fear that Armenia, as a Christian nation, would enter into alliances with the other Christian people around?

On the part of Armenians, was it only a religious war? Was it in defense of the nation? Was this the war of the nobles for the benefit of protecting their titles and estates? For us living sixteen centuries after the event, the stamp of a particular interpretation has been placed to wit, that it was for the *protection of the Christian faith*. With this interpretation we are happy because it gives us a basis for faith, courage of conviction and the strength of character.

III. But, the *most* difficult thing about Vartanantz is living by its meaning. How many of us today are willing and ready to make the sacrifices for faith that the Armenians of the Fifth Century did? The following words were said of the unmatched heroism of the women of Armenia who stood by their husbands and the nation in the long years of suffering and suspense: "They bore in themselves the likeness of the bloodless crickets that live without food but by the sweetness of their song alone, and inhaling the air for sustenance."

And of Vahan Mamigonian, it is said: "He lived the life of a fugitive patriot, and did exploits."

Yes, there is *some* difficulty in obtaining the facts of the event; it is *more* difficult to interpret the event; but it takes a *heroic* spirit to live by the meaning of Vartanantz.

G.H. Chopourian

**I regularly receive letters from an unsigned source. He gives good ideas, but we cannot execute them without his participation. It would be a sign of valor if he were to reveal himself.**

The Editor

## SCHOLARSHIP GRANTS FROM AMAA AND AFFILIATES FOR 1974 - 1975

The AMAA and its affiliates provided the following college and seminary scholarships to 95 youth for the scholastic year 1974-1975.

We are pleased to chart below the number of recipients, missionary sources and the area of training:

| NUMBER OF RECIPIENTS | MAJOR SOUCES                             | SEMINARY | OTHERS |
|----------------------|--|----------|--------|
| 17                   | Telfeyan Evangelical Fund                | 6        | 11     |
| 1                    | Angele Malcolm                           | 1        |        |
| 2                    | Hekemian Family Endowment Fund           |          | 2      |
|                      | Through A.T.S.A.                         |          |        |
|                      | Rev. M. KcKinnon                         |          |        |
|                      | Ezra Tellallian Fund                     |          |        |
|                      | Harry Apelian Fund                       |          |        |
|                      | Dohanian Family Fund                     |          |        |
| 6                    | M.H.Muradian Memorial Fund               | 6        |        |
|                      | S.K. & G.T. Emurian Fund                 |          |        |
|                      | Lootfi Levonian Fund                     |          |        |
|                      | Iskiyan Fund                             |          |        |
|                      | Karekin Kaboolian Fund                   |          |        |
|                      | A. & P. Kezlarian Fund                   |          |        |
| 18                   | Stephen Philibosian Foundation           | 18       |        |
|                      | Through Haigazian College Trustees       |          |        |
|                      | Nishan Bizdikian                         |          |        |
|                      | Helen Harikian Memorial Fund             |          |        |
|                      | S. & Y. Bakamjian Scholarship Fund       |          |        |
|                      | Garabed Keuhnelian Fund                  |          |        |
|                      | Dr. John Keuhnelian Fund                 |          |        |
|                      | Rev. S.M. Rejebian Fund                  |          |        |
|                      | Sarkis Bogosian Fund                     |          |        |
| 34                   | D. & R. Balikjian (Fisher) Fund          | 34*      |        |
|                      | G. & E. Barsumian Fund                   |          |        |
|                      | Martha Doodoo Jedidian Educational Fund  |          |        |
|                      | S. & A. Saprichian Fund                  |          |        |
|                      | Dr. H.N. Guonjian                        |          |        |
|                      | Telfeyan Evangelical Fund                |          |        |
|                      | Minor Sources                            |          |        |
|                      | Puzant Levonian                          |          |        |
|                      | S.B. & Louise Janjigian Fund             |          |        |
|                      | Garabed Keshishian                       |          |        |
|                      | Gerrit Verkuyl—Hagop Markarian           |          |        |
|                      | Levon Mehagian                           |          |        |
|                      | Anonymous                                |          | 1      |
|                      | Middle East College Group                |          | 1      |
|                      | Aintab Compatriotic Union Endowment Fund |          | 15     |

\*Includes Seminary Students as well.

## A BIRTHDAY SERMON

The following are highlights of a message delivered by the Rev. Sarkis Papajian to the congregation of the Pilgrim Armenian Congregational Church of Fresno on the request of the Pastor, the Rev. Harry Missirlian. The message was delivered on November 2, 1975 on the occasion and in honor of the Rev. Papajian's 80th birthday. An enlarged summary of the message follows:

When Badveli suggested I speak on the topic, "WHAT I LEARNED IN 80 YEARS," I felt it was a big order to compress 80 years of living in 25 minutes, but promised to do my best. Although I have made many mistakes in the normal process of growing old gradually, I have held on to certain good principles. Douglas McArthur's rules for growing old gracefully are apropos: "You are as young as your faith, as old as your doubt; as young as your self-confidence, as old as your fear; as young as your hope, as old as your despair." In growing old, I found certain unchanging truths which guided my life and I found them to be very helpful for my daily living.



First, I learned *Gratitude*. I came to the United States from Armenia at the age of 17 and for a few years worked at nothing special. My parents' desire that I become a minister resulted in my getting the help of a friend, an Armenian Pastor in Philadelphia, to introduce me to two leaders of the Evangelical Reformed Church—one, the principal of a private academy and the other, a seminary professor. Their Christian assistance in getting me into the academy without requiring any payment for my schooling and for board, overwhelmed me. In addition to this kindness, I was permitted to earn spending money by doing some odd jobs. In this way, I was able to earn \$200 annually in ten years of prep, college and seminary schooling. In



payment for all their kindnesses, I was asked to preach in their denomination for ten years. Here was my first lesson in gratitude to these people who, in full trust and without any obligation on my part, helped me in every way possible to give me a good start in life. Since that time, I have experienced this kind of helpfulness by many others and in many ways. I am thankful to God also for the love and friendship in this church. In addition, I am grateful to America for giving me the opportunities in my life to serve in the churches and for the friends who have given me and my family love and loyalty.

Second, I have learned in life that in order to live a worthwhile life a person must learn to be *Sensitive* about others—the ability to put yourself in the other man's place. We become so self-centered, so preoccupied with ourselves that we become blind to everything else around us. Jesus complained about His generation, "They have eyes, but do not see, ears but do not hear, hearts, but do not feel." I read about a headmaster in an English school, who had made it a rule to thrash every boy who was late for school without asking for an explanation. One morning after he had beaten a little boy who was late for the first time, he discovered that on that morning the boy had heard about a mine disaster on his way to school, had gone to the mine to get the latest news, only to find that his older brother, a miner, had been killed. Jesus, who was so sensitive to human need, never considered His own feelings: He felt the hunger of the hungry, felt naked and homeless with the poor and was sad for the sins all around him.

Third, I learned that most of us seldom get *First Choice* in life although we dream of becoming great, successful, famous and happy. But, our dreams do not materialize in the way we might expect and we question why? Do you remember the Apostle Paul who wanted to go to Bythinia, one of the richest provinces in Asia Minor, but went instead to Troas through the leading of the Holy Spirit? The obedience to the guidance of the Holy Spirit resulted in Europe's eventual embracing of Christianity and hence to America's becoming a predominantly Christian nation. The central lesson is to take what life hands to us and to make the most of it.

Fourth, I learned that life has

definite *Rules* and they seldom change. I agree with Washington Gladden who said, "I know that right is right; that it is not good to lie; that love is better than hate, and a neighbor than a spy. In the darkest night of the year, when the stars are all gone out, that courage is better than fear and faith is truer than doubt."

All things pass away, but faith, hope, love remain and the greatest of them is love. Most sicknesses come because men and women insist on ignoring the rules of the game. We fill our lives with selfishness, greed, hatred, jealousy, fear, prejudice, pride and we wonder why things go wrong. We fill our hearts with malice, ill-will and self-centeredness, then wonder why we are so miserable—why we can't be happy and content.

And, finally, I learned to *Trust* God and follow Jesus Christ. Among all the ideologies and philosophies of life, the way of Christ is the best and only way to satisfy a man's soul and help him live a wellrounded life. Yes, Christ is the only answer to all our human sins, problems and difficulties. As someone so aptly said, "All the armies that ever marched, and all the navies that ever were built, and all the Parliaments that ever sat, and all the kings that ever reigned *put together* have not affected the life of man upon this earth as has that One Solitary Life." I have learned to trust God and follow Jesus Christ.

I have learned to appreciate the principle of the second mile in life, for in the first mile of life everyone of us must live up to certain standards such as paying taxes, getting married and caring for our families, obeying the rule of the road, etc. But, even God does not force me to go the second mile if I don't want to. For example, no one can force me to love my country and do any more than I must to get along. No one can force me to love my family and do more than my basic duty. Going the second mile is to give more than we are expected. That's what makes life infinitely more worth the living. But to do that, we must learn to love as Christ loves and God loves. We must learn to look upon our fellowmen with the eyes of God. We must learn to CARE. So these truths, these principles have helped me in my life. I thank all my dear friends who have helped me in this wonderful pilgrimage, and I thank God for all my friends.

God bless you all!

## IMMANUEL CHURCH PASTOR RETIRES

Rev. Mardiros H. Marganian conducted his last service and preached his last sermon as pastor of the Immanuel Congregational Church of Los Angeles on Sunday, December 28, 1975. He retired at the end of the year after serving as minister of the church for fifteen and a half years. He had begun his pastorate at Immanuel in June 1960, succeeding Rev. Artavazd Minaesian.



Rev. Marganian, with his wife Sirvart, and family, came to this country from Beirut, Lebanon. Prior to coming to the United States, Rev. Marganian studied at the Near East School of Theology and received his B.A. degree from the American University of Beirut. He also served in the churches of the Armenian Evangelical Union of Syria and Lebanon for twenty-three years.

He received additional formal education at the Hartford Theological Seminary in Hartford, Conn., where he received his Bachelor of Divinity degree.

The Immanuel Armenian Congregational Church held a banquet in his honor upon his retirement, and the Executive Director of the AMAA sent a message on behalf of the President, Dr. John Keuhnelian, and the Board on that occasion.

We pray that the deserving rest on retirement will be an enjoyable, gratifying and fulfilling one for him in every way, and that he will have time now to do the personal things that he sacrificed to make his ministry helpful to God's creatures."

## U.A. C. C. INAUGURATES A UNIQUE AND EXCITING CHRISTIAN TRAINING PROGRAM

The United Armenian Congregational Church of North Hollywood has inaugurated an innovative Youth Intern Program. Borrowing the idea of *serving for experience* from Webster's definition of "intern," the United Armenian Congregational Church of Hollywood has adopted this vocational Christian Service Program to assist young men and women of the congregation to become active and trained church lay people.



Intern CAROL LEVONIAN

**PURPOSE:** The purpose of the Intern Program is twofold:

- (1) To recruit college or seminary students and train them for the ministry and to train and develop them for Christ's work through study with the church staff and practical training in the ministry of the local church.
- (2) To give youth who are committed to Christ and His church an opportunity to gain experience and training in Christian service. These youth, who



Intern FRED HURST

otherwise may not be ready to commit themselves to full-time vocational Christian work, will be able to receive valuable experience and training under supervision.

**PROGRAM:** Interns will be involved with one of the staff members in a study program for one and a half hours each week. They will be given regular home work assignments and study subjects such as: (1) Developing and leading group-discussion sessions; (2) Administrative and leadership methods; (3) Children, youth and adult teaching concepts and techniques; (4) Armenian history and culture; (5) Outreach, evangelism and missions. Each intern will be assigned to a staff member and be given one *definite responsibility*, depending on interest and ability.



Intern EDWARD A. TOVMASSIAN

Interns may specialize in the following areas: Adult, youth, outreach, missions, children, Armenian, music, pastoral ministries, administration, visitation, preaching, church secretary... or any other obvious ministry approved by the Church Board. The Program, besides allowing the individual to specialize, will give him an overall view of church ministry. An Intern must participate in the Program for ten hours per week to effectively fulfill his responsibilities of study, preparation and ministry.



Intern RONALD D. TOVMASSIAN

**REQUIREMENTS:** The first requirement is that a young person have a

definite commitment to God and desire to serve Him. He must then be teachable, available and faithful. He must be in the process of obtaining a formal education, preferably with one year of college finished, and anticipate finishing college. He must be a member of the United Armenian Congregational Church. Candidates may be considered upon graduation from high school. A commitment to the Program of at least nine months is required.

**COMPENSATION:** Interns are granted a sum of \$100.00 each for the year to assist them in their studies. This sum is granted through an Intern Scholarship Fund. The payment is not made to the individuals directly, but is payable to the schools they attend.

The Editor of the U.A.C.C.'s HERALD concludes:

"We are excited about our Intern Program. We wanted you to know about it. Please pray for the five Interns that are currently in the Program. Pray for our church staff that are working with them. Pray for God's direction in the future for this Program and for the addition of new Interns. The need for ministers and well-trained laypeople in the church is great. The Intern Program is one way in which we are trying to meet this need in the future. If you have any questions or suggestions concerning this area, please contact Rev. Charlie Bradshaw or Larry Osborne."



Intern CHRIS KAZARIAN

Copies of the Program and a List of Suggested Books may be obtained from the U.A.C.C. or A.M.A.A. by those who may be desirous of implementing similar programs.

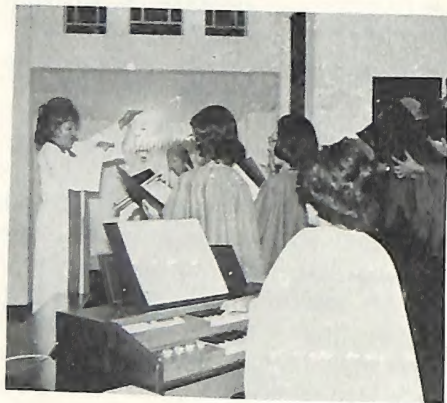


## THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORTS

The December 1975 issue of this NEWSLETTER gave coverage to the Executive Director's visitation to South America. In view of favorable responses from the AMAA constituency to this feature, an attempt will be made to keep the membership informed about the movements, involvements and activities of the Director which might be of public interest.

### SAO PAULO, MONTEVIDEO, BUENOS AIRES

News from the First Armenian Evangelical Church of Montevideo, a congregation for which the AMAA



Sao Paulo Church choir under the direction of Miss Gaidzagian

purchased a large residence at an important five-road junction in the thickly populated metropolis, is that the church is growing in every way. The Rev. Movses Janbazian, Pastor of the Armenian Evangelical Church of Sao Paulo, also assists the First Armenian Evangelical Church of Montevideo. The Montevideo congregation does not have a pastor as yet.

Rev. Janbazian reports that his



H.C. Professor, Zenas Ilanjan

church is weighing carefully and seriously the founding of an AMAA Branch in Sao Paulo under the supervision of the church. The Montevideo Church is also considering the creation of an AMAA Branch. The Rev. Janbazian, a lively young man, is giving excellent leadership to the Sao Paulo and the Montevideo Churches with the enthusiastic support of his church which is also showing progress.

In Buenos Aires, a group of committed Christians are studying the feasibility of founding an AMAA Branch. They inform us that to realize such a Branch, a headquarters is needed. The group have found a very suitable building and have requested \$40,000 for its purchase. If we could find a benefactor, we could proceed with these challenging plans. The group will take care of the furnishings and the care of the structure. From this headquarter, AMAA projects would be promoted in Argentina. Realities are consequences of dreams. Pray with us for their realization.

### AMAA PRESENCE IN CALIFORNIA

Between September 20 and October 27, 1975 the Executive Director was in California for the purpose of promoting the work of the Association, to extend the Association's thanks and gratitude to the constituency and to work in the churches for the purpose of stimulating interest in missions.

During his stay there, he and his wife were the guests of Miss Elise Merdin-



AMAA Vice President Norair Sarian in Los Angeles. Taken after a Lunch Meeting with the Executive Secretary during the latter's California visit

ian, who provided a nice apartment which was turned into a temporary

AMAA headquarters for the period. His program included contacts with the churches in San Francisco and Sacramento in the north; the Pilgrim Armenian Congregational Church and the First Armenian Presbyterian Church in Fresno. In Los Angeles area, the Executive Director spoke in the United Armenian, the Immanuel Armenian and the Cilicia Armenian Congregational Churches as well as in the two Armenian Evangelical Brethren



After a lunch meeting, taken on the campus of the United Armenian Congregational Church, North Hollywood, California. Left to right:

The Rev. E.S. Tovmassian, the Rev. Vahan Tourian, "Mother" Aznive Apkarian, the Rev. Paul Avazian and the Rev. Sarkis Consulian of Yerevan, Armenia, now residing with his wife in Pasadena.

communities in Pasadena.

The services in the United Armenian, the Cilicia Armenian and the Immanuel Armenian Congregational Churches were followed by dinners at which time



The Reverend Dr. John Markarian President, Haigazian College

opportunity was given to Dr. Chopourian to present the work of the Association visually. In addition, Dr. Chopourian had conferences with pastors, missions committees, and officers of the churches with few exceptions. He also had conferences with AMAA Board members on the West Coast and attended a Haigazian College Board of Trustees' meeting.

In early January, 1976, both the AMAA President and the Executive Director were in Los Angeles to attend the AEU-NA Executive Council meeting that lasted two full days.

It was a pleasure for the Executive Director to introduce to the West Coast constituency in the Los Angeles area the capable and knowledgeable President, Dr. John G. Keuhnelian. Dr. Keuhnelian greeted the congregation of the U.A.C.C. at the Sunday Worship Service on January 11, before taking the flight back home to Tenafly, New Jersey, with a special greeting to Vice President Dr. Sarkis Telfeyan and his wife who were present at the service. The AMAA representatives were both present at an all-day Haigazian College meeting on Saturday, January 10. They were once again impressed with the superb leadership in the Haigazian College Board of Trustees. That very evening they were privileged to be at the beautiful new residence of Dr. Mihran and Mrs. Elizabeth Agbabian, where a large number of persons interested in Aleppo College had congregated to promote the interest of the Middle East College Group.

The January West Coast trip gave an opportunity to the Executive Director to stop in Phoenix, Arizona, on his way back. The initiative was taken for this



Left to Right: Mr. Onnig Marashian, G.H. Chopourian, Mr. Avedis Chakejian of Egypt, and the Reverend Bernard Guekguezian

stopover due to the request of two lovely sisters in the persons of Atlanta and Margaret Hovsepien. Steve and Mary Mehagian hosted Chopourian in their beautiful and comfortable home for two days, and while there, Dr. Chopourian met with some members of the



The Mehagian Family

Armenian community. A group of about 18 met for dinner at the Phoenix Country Club with Sam and Aram Mardian as hosts. The missionary outreach of the Association was presented in color slides with appropriate comments by the Executive Director. This small gathering was about as inspiring as a very large gathering, indeed. Many, many thanks to the Mardians.

### DEFERRED GIVING SEMINAR

On December 2 and 3, 1975 Dr. Chopourian attended the National Planned Giving Institute's seminar in New York City, accompanied by Mrs. Marguerite Dokouzian, the Association's bookkeeper. The learning experience was valuable as the Association will benefit by using the learning for the preparation of brochures on deferred giving and for public relations work.

### CONFERENCES, VISITATIONS, SERVICES

The Rev. Harry Missirlian, Chairman of the AEU-NA Hymnal Task Force, flew to the East Coast to confer with publishers for eventual contracting of the publication of the bilingual Armenian Evangelical Hymnal. After contact with a Northern New Jersey firm, Rev. Missirlian and the Executive Director drove down to Philadelphia to meet with Miss Marion M. Meyer, Senior Editor of the United Church Press. The conference with Miss Meyer

was extremely helpful both in the area of perfecting the hymnal in format and language and in preventing unnecessary expenses.

On January 30, 1976 Dr. Chopourian, accompanied by Mrs. Chopourian, visited Mrs. Flora Sarkisian at her residence in New York City. This cultured and gracious lady is a very dear friend of the Association, and has been ever ready to extend a helping hand when we have needed her. She recently sent a check in the amount of \$10,000, in memory of her beloved parents, Paul and Arousiag Iskiyan. This was added to the first \$10,000, and the income from the \$20,000 has been designated for use for the training of Christian ministers.

### THE AMAA CAMPAIGN FOR LEBANON RELIEF STILL ON

Inquiries are being made to the AMAA whether the announced joint campaign of the AGBU-Armenian Church Diocese incorporates the campaign appeal of the AMAA as well. It is natural that such a joint campaign announcement might confuse the constituency and, therefore, it may be considered that the AMAA is not campaigning. The Executive Board of the AMAA resolved, at its last meeting, that the AMAA should inform the pastors of the churches, chapters and missions committees as well as those who make inquiries to the office that THE AMAA HAS ITS OWN SPECIFIC CAMPAIGN AND WE PLEAD WITH ALL OUR CONSTITUENCY TO ENCOURAGE THE AMAA CAMPAIGN TO THEIR UTMOST TO ENABLE US TO MEET ALL THE DEMANDS BEING MADE UPON US FOR FINANCIAL RELIEF. The Armenian Evangelical Community in Lebanon has, proportionally speaking, greater investments and, therefore, its losses have been proportionately much larger than any other community. We appeal to all Armenians to feel with us and to come to our assistance.

In January 1976 an appeal was sent to the entire AMAA constituency and responses have been most encouraging. However, in view of the great needs of that war-torn Armenian community, the AMAA will be engaged in additional mailings, perhaps for the



second and third time, for Lebanon Relief. We plead with our dear readers and friends to contribute regularly and most generously to this cause to enable us to meet the acute needs.

Of course, Haigazian College needs have not been forgotten and personal letters have been written to about 200 prominent persons in the Armenian community in the U.S., with an outline of the needs, so that they would come to the assistance of the College. The College needs to be put on its feet, put back on its pre-Beirut strife level, if it is to serve the entire Armenian community. We are very happy that the College opened its doors on February 9, 1976 with a student registration of 200 or 250. The needs are vast and enormous, and in order to keep the College alive and well extremely generous donations are needed. We appeal to our Armenian compatriots here in this blessed country of the United States, where our Armenian people have enjoyed the fruits of education, freedom and security to help educate our youth overseas along with whatever we can do to other nationalities.

Dr. Dennis Papazian, Co-Chairman of the Armenian Assembly, has been in touch with the Executive Director to state that he is in communication with Senator James Abourezk (D.SD) with a view to having Haigazian College included in the Bill that the Senator is introducing in Congress for U.S. aid to Lebanon. The Senator has agreed to do so. It is Senator Abourezk's suggestion that the members of the Armenian/American community be urged to write their Congressmen, Senators and the President of the U.S., encouraging them to send humanitarian relief to the people of Lebanon. A public outpouring of support for such a Bill can substantially increase its chance of passage.

#### SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS AND ASSISTANCE

There have been an outpouring of applications for scholarship assistance recently. Apparently, there has been a misunderstanding that the entire \$250,000 donation of the Hekemians is expendable for scholarships. The truth is that only the income of the fund is distributable.

The Executive Director has been instrumental in the placement of two ministerial candidates into schools, namely Zohrab Semerjian, a 1974

Haigazian College graduate, who is now registered at the Andover Newton Theological School in Massachusetts, and Miss Shoushig Salibian, the daughter of the Rev. and Mrs. Vahram Salibian of Beirut, in the Eastern Baptist Seminary in Philadelphia where she will pursue training in evangelism. Two other students in theological institutions, one in Princeton and the other in Andover Newton again, are beneficiaries of financial assistance from the Association.

#### AMMA'S FINANCIAL EFFORTS FOR LEBANON

Thanks to the heroic generosity of our constituency and the equally great benevolence of the Stephen Philibosian Foundation, we have been able to send \$88,000 in the last three months to Lebanon of which \$40,000 was designated for Haigazian College from the Stephen Philibosian Foundation and Endowment Fund.

#### IMMIGRATION

An extremely large number of requests have already been made to the Executive Director for assistance by Armenians desiring to immigrate to the U.S. While the AMAA has no official policy to encourage such immigration, it finds itself under pressure to give guidance on immigration matters as a humanitarian act. Its guidance is chiefly in interpreting the laws of the U.S. Government relative to the preference system and the priorities that fall under the preference system.

#### PRESENCE ON CHURCH PULPITS

In addition to the administration of the offices of the Association, Dr. Chopourian has also done voluntary preaching at the Sunday Worship Ser-



AMAA Miami Chapter Treasurer, Mrs. Seeran Ghazarian (right) and daughter Mrs. Hazel Skaggs

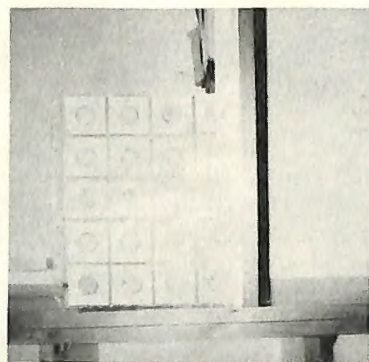
vices in numerous churches, including pulpits in New York and the Boston areas.

#### RECRUITING OF MINISTERIAL CANDIDATES

The Board of Directors, in cooperation with the AEU-NA, have considered for some time the necessity of preparing leaders for spiritual work among our people. It is a great pleasure to announce that the Board, with encouragement from the Union of the Armenian Evangelical Churches, which has given its blessing, has decided to provide as much as six month's time to the Executive Director to make all necessary efforts overseas to recruit candidates for the ministry, Christian Education, or other types of religious work. The first recruit was confirmed two months ago. The Executive Director requires the prayers and guidance of all those who are interested in the creation of a spiritually lively, highly educated and personable youth as spiritual leaders of our Armenian Evangelical communities. If you have any qualified college and/or high school graduate who should be encouraged, write to the AMAA headquarters.

#### OFFICIAL VISITS TO THE AMAA

The AMAA offices received many visits by friends and acquaintances. Often, volunteer workers or officials in AMAA related work visit the offices, among whom were the Rev. Dr. John J. Markarian, President of Haigazian College; Mrs. Siran Ghazarian, Miami Chapter Treasurer; Mr. Avedis Tchakdjian of Egypt and his nephew Mr. Onnig Marashian; and Mr. Zenas Ilanjian, a Haigazian College Professor who is presently investigating the possibility of moving his family to this country.



Ancient Coins Donated to the AMAA by Mr. Yervant Vartanian of Fresno, California.

## WAYS AND MEANS USED TO ASSIST THE A. M. A. A.

We receive interesting letters which reveal the missionary spirit prevailing in the hearts of many of our Armenian Christians. Others inform us of their own personal sacrifices for the missionary outreach of the organization which they love. We provide below some of the Ways and Means used to assist the Organization.

#### Six and a Half-Year Old Lorissa's Project

"My daughter, Lorissa," writes Mr. Dickran Malatjalian, "is only six and a half-years old and when I suggested to her to sponsor an Armenian girl's schooling tuition fee, she responded most enthusiastically and is entirely saving part of her spending money for this honorable project. Needless to say that my wife and I will continue helping Lorissa to raise the money and we will try and make sure that there will not be any delays in sending the amount in due time."

#### Merjanian's In-Lieu-of Xmas Gifts

"Our family," writes Dr. Pepronia Merjanian, who, we are proud to announce received her Ph.D. in Psychology from the California Graduate Institute on July 25, 1975, "has decided that in lieu of Christmas gifts to one another and to our friends we will send checks (c/o Dr. G. Chopourian, Armenian Missionary Association of America, 140 Forest Avenue, Paramus, N.J. 07652) to alleviate to a small measure some of the sufferings of the Armenian refugees in Cyprus and Beirut, Lebanon."

#### Daddy's "In-Lieu-Of Christmas" Gift

The children of Dr. and Mrs. Barkev Bakamjian, viz. Theodore J., Timothy M. and David B., all of whom are students in different colleges, have sent \$30 in the name of their father Barkev with the following remarks: "We feel this is a most appropriate gift during these troubled times and hope that this contribution will in some way alleviate the distressing situation of Lebanese Armenians. Mister Bakamjian would want it no other way but to see underprivileged Armenian children receive a decent education."

#### California A.C.E.U. Car Wash

The News Bulletin of the Armenian Christian Endeavor Union of California carried this announcement:

"Because of a tight schedule, the

First Armenian Presbyterian and Pilgrim Armenian Congregational Churches will have separate car washes on October 18 and 25. Half the proceeds from each car wash will go to Arpine Aghabegian pledge. All youth groups will be encouraged to have special money raising events and to take special missionary offerings once or twice a month until next February and bring the total amounts to the winter retreat."

#### Concern Over Lebanon Leads to Writing of Biggest Check

A retired minister, but concerned, writes, "Dear Mr. Secretary: I am deeply concerned about what is happening to our compatriots in Lebanon. Stimulated by that concern I am writing the biggest check I ever have for a similar cause. It certainly isn't much in itself, but it is for me. I know that even if every one gives the most he can, the situation will remain grim. Nevertheless, we ought to do what we can do. M.M.M."

#### In Lieu of Christmas Cards

Dr. and Mrs. Vahe Roubian of Manhasset, New York, have sent the generous sum of \$100 to the AMAA in lieu of Christmas cards they have omitted to send in 1975 to friends and relatives. Our sincere and deep gratitude to the Roubians for this innovative and thoughtful gesture.

#### Bad Cold—Hot Tears

"Dear Dr. 'G'," writes Attorney Harold (Balukjian) Fisher.

"Have been home for 3 days, with a 'bad cold'. And that is about the extent of the so-called misfortune we are subjected to. 'Crisis' in U.S.A. means lack of icing on the cake.

While at home, I read a good part of my Haigazian College magazines, in Armenian. Then I read some short stories by Avedik Isahagian. His stories about Armenian village life are beautiful, some sad, some picturesque. I bought his book of short stories at Erevan in 1965.

A group of Armenians, desolate, in tents, not far from Yeprad—only elderly, half-starved, men and women and a few infants, undernourished, sick and sickly; the younger members having been slaughtered and carried away—living on some charity from

Arabs in nearby villages, and by doing some sewing for the Arabs. Still, the poor, poor grandma calls the children to her and, using the sand like a writing board, teaches them to write and to read—and teaches them to hope that some day they all shall see their fathers, brothers, mothers and sisters, again, in Armenia, which will be like heaven. 'Chop', yours and mine were in that group.

The AMAA is like that grandmother in the story, teaching our children to write and to read, hoping that we shall find life and a bit of happiness in our sacred land of Armenia and of our neighbors. I will try to help 10 youngsters, blessed with Armenian blood; not blood shed by imperialists or by savages—but blood alive and running in their veins, to the glory of Armenia.

I am enclosing \$250 on account—will enclose another \$250 soon.

I have the pictures of my former 'Sans' (students sponsored) and I cherish their faces, their names with devotion. Harold."

#### The Widow's Mite and Tears

We have a most touching letter from the widow of the late Rev. Siragan Agabian, who weeps for those in distress:

"Last week I sent to you a \$25 check. For two days now I have been bothered in my conscience that I do not live according to the golden rule. So this time, I am sending one more \$25 check for my Lebanese poor brothers and sisters and I promise you in the near future I will send in whatever amount I can.

I know that this sum is equal to nothing, but God knows everybody's heart. Little is much when God is in it. I am praying with tears every day for Lebanon. Because I understand very well the situation. In 1919 I was newly married in Marash. We had a tragedy like this. There was war between the Turks and the French. It was a miracle that God kept us alive. Praise the Lord. Oh, that I were able to send thousands and millions of dollars. I give this much in the spirit of the 'widow'. I hope many Armenians will give generously in the U.S. and all over the world. My heart is aching for my dear nationals, and even for Christian Arabs and for the innocent Moslems. May God be merciful."



# OBITUARIES



**HAIG N. SOLAKIAN**

Haig N. Solakian, former president of the Armenian Missionary Association of America and founder of its Connecticut Chapter and chairman, died on Friday, January 30, 1976 at the age of 85.

The executive secretary, accompanied by the Rev. S.K. Sulahian, a distant relative of the deceased, was present at a memorial service held at The First Congregational Church, Branford, Connecticut, followed by a visit to his wife, Rose Nazarethian Solakian of 241 Pine Orchard Road., Branford, Connecticut. Dr. Solakian was associated with the work of the AMAA for many years. He was elected president in 1959 and served for two years and was reappointed again in 1963 to serve two more one-year terms. During his administration, the work of the Association marked a steady progress and growth in a harmonious atmosphere. He faithfully attended nearly all the meetings without fail and conducted the meetings in positively helpful and orderly ways. He held a clear vision of the role of the AMAA in the life of our people and was assured on his part that the Association would make continued marked progress.

Dr. Solakian was not only helpful to the AMAA, but also to the great country of his adoption, the United States. He developed the Stereoscopic Range-Finder which was adopted by the U.S. War Department and another research established the cause and prevention of corrosion in aluminum alloys by which he also helped solve the mystery surrounding the crash of the Dirigible, Shenandoah.

Dr. Solakian was born in Kilis, Armenia and was married in 1924 to Rose Nazarethian in Alexandria, Egypt. His educational, scientific, philanthropic and social service involvements may be summarized as

follows:

Graduate, American Mission College, Aintab, Armenia;

Graduate, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, B.S.; M.S.; Sc.D.;

Metallurgical Engineer, Employed by the Bethlehem Steel Co., the Remington Typewriter Co. and the Bureau of Standards in Washington, D.C.;

President, the Crown Chemical Corporation and the Bellis Company;

A dozen patents for processes which contributed significantly to the progress of metallurgical science and industry;

Author of articles in technical journals and on Advisory Board of "Metal Progress," the monthly trade journal of the American Society of Metals;

Service with the American Expeditionary Forces in France, 1915;

Service Commander, East Shore Barracks 2098 Veterans of World War I;

Deacon, The First Congregational Church of Branford;

Appeared in "Who's Who in American Men of Science" and "The Blue Book of Living World Notables".

John and Eleanor Grant of New Haven, Connecticut, make the following testimony about Dr. Solakian:

"The death of this fine gentleman has left behind him a host of grieving friends among whom we count ourselves. His good works will live after him and his involvement with your organization was but one of many worthwhile pursuits to which he devoted time and energy. His role as a husband, father and grandfather always remained paramount and will be treasured by these beneficiaries of his loving concern. We congratulate your organization for having attracted his talents and express in this small way our sadness at his passing."

Besides his wife, Dr. Solakian leaves behind two daughters, Mrs. Frederick (Dorothy) D. Grave, Jr. and Mrs. William (Nancy) J. Helman of North Haven and Darien, respectively, and seven grandchildren.

In extending our sympathies to Dr. Solakian's beloved, the Board of Directors also wish to express their thanks to the family for assigning memorial contributions to the Armenian Missionary Association of America.

**A.M.A.A. BENEFACTOR  
EDWARD H. NAHIGIAN**



Friend and benefactor of the AMAA, Edward H. Nahigian, died on November 10, 1975. Funeral services were held at the First Armenian Church of Belmont, with the Rev. Vartan Hartunian officiating.

Born in Armenia, Mr. Nahigian came to the United States in 1920 and established residence in Brookline, Cambridge and Belmont, in that order. He was founder and president of University Motor Sales and York Manufacturing Co., both in Cambridge, and retired in 1965.

Mr. Nahigian was active in the First Armenian Church of Belmont for many years and was Council president and a member of the Board of Deacons. He also supervised the construction of the church plant of the new First Armenian Church of Belmont, a job he was qualified for as a real estate developer in the Greater Boston Area. Mr. Nahigian held membership in the Belmont Lions Club, Council of Armenian Executives, National Association of Armenian Studies and Research, the Belmont Historical Society, the Oakley Country Club of Watertown and the Royal Palm Yacht and Country Club in Boca Raton, Florida.

The Armenian Missionary Association, in gratefulness for Mr. Nahigian's charitable services to the Organization, wishes to extend thanks to the family for designating memorial gifts for the AMAA in lieu of flowers. The Board of Directors extend their sympathies to his wife, Ann (Daniels); son, Kenneth of Atlanta, Ga.; daughter, Mrs. Claire Bardakian of Garden City, New York; and sister, Mrs. Angel Malcolm of San Francisco, California.

**G. JOHN GREGORY (VAHGATSI)**



G. John Gregory (Vahgatsi), a pioneer and expert in the field of vocational guidance and founder and director of the 37-year old Bureau of Vocational Guidance, Inc. of Boston, died of a heart attack on September 9, 1975.

Born on September 23, 1902 in Vagha (led to referral to him as Vahgatsi), a town near Adana in Cilicia, Mr. Gregory graduated from St. Paul's College in Tarsus, taught in Cyprus and immigrated to the U.S. in 1932 to graduate from Western Reserve College in Cleveland and to achieve fame and respect in Watertown by his intense interest in education, important contributions to Armenian life and loyal service to the Church of Christ. His first and primary interest, when his wife Lousaper and he moved to Watertown 43 years ago, was to bring the first Armenian teacher to the Watertown School system. His success in this endeavor began his civic career in Watertown as member of the School Committee for seven years, and Town Meeting Member for 25 years until his recent death. He was a pioneer in getting Armenians interested and active in the affairs of the town.

Mr. Gregory had the courage to speak his mind without being vindictive, was practical yet visionary, objective but an incurable optimist. Willing to do his utmost to help everyone, a man of Christian motivation, love and abiding faith in God, he used his many talents and abilities to those ends.

The various services and achievements of the deceased include the following:

Founder of the National Association of Armenian Studies and Research leading to the establishment of the chair in Armenian studies at Harvard;

Member of the First Baptist Church of Watertown, having served as deacon and chairman of its Board of Missions;

Member and District Committee Chairman of the A.D.L.;

Member of the Massachusetts Board of Education for nine years and Chairman of the Board of Collegiate Authority;

Member of the War Manpower Commission, World War II;

Member of the School Committee and Town Meeting with important contributions to the town's school system.

The Christian sympathy of the Board of Directors go out to his wife, Lousaper (Yeganian), his three children, John Gregory of New Jersey; two daughters, Mrs. Gloria Burney of Wellesley and Mrs. Ruth Bridges of Watertown; a brother, Louder Vahgatsi of Greece; two sisters, Mrs. Nooritz Daglian and Mrs. Siranoush Salakian, both of Watertown; and five grandchildren.



**MANUEL AVEDIS GERTMENIAN**

A beloved friend of the AMAA, Manuel Avedis Gertmenian passed away on October 20, 1975. Stricken by heart failure six days earlier, he never regained consciousness.

Son of Avedis and Zarouhi Gertmenian, Mr. Gertmenian was born in Adana, Turkey in 1906. His boyhood was spent between Adana and Hadjin before he came to the United States in 1921.

Pasadena, California became Mr. Gertmenian's home in 1923, and it was there he met his future bride, Diana Rose Bakalian. They were married in 1934 and had a son, Roger Manuel Gertmenian, and two daughters, Eileen Claire Cofer, and Cynthia Kathleen Kalostian.

Mr. Gertmenian was an energetic

and respected businessman. He was the founder and proprietor of Gertmenian's Market on famous Colorado Blvd. in Pasadena. During World War II he branched out into farming and wholesaling, but returned to his grocery business later.

In the 1960's, Manuel Gertmenian became well known in the Southern California area as a most talented shish kebab chef. During his career as caterer he served thousands of people. He even went as far as Phoenix, Arizona and Salt Lake City, Utah to present his delicious dinners.

Many of Mr. Gertmenian's efforts in serving shish kebab were for the benefit of Armenian and American charities. Perhaps his favorite was the Haigazian College. He travelled to Arizona several times to insure the success of fund raisers there, and with his brothers, he annually sponsored a picnic to supply scholarship money for worthy Armenian students to attend Haigazian.

Manuel Gertmenian is survived by his wife, three children and six loving grandchildren. In addition there are his three brothers, Henry of Oakland, California, and Garry and Seb of Pasadena. His three sisters are Ruth Mardian of Phoenix, Arizona, Lucy Avakian of Great Neck, New York, and Alice Kalousdian of Pasadena.

Funeral services were held for Mr. Gertmenian on October 24, 1975 in Pasadena. Presiding were Rev. N. Melidonian, Pastor of the Armenian Cilicia Congregational Church where Mr. Gertmenian was a long time active member, and Rev. E. Tovmassian of United Armenian Congregational Church in Hollywood.

The AMAA Board extends sincere condolences to the bereaved in grateful acknowledgment of his many loving services to the Association.

## AMAA ENTHUSIAST SAMUEL SOGHOMONIAN

Samuel Soghomonian, son of the Rev. Levon Soghomonian and grandson of the well-known Soghmeheh Baba of Marash, died on October 13, 1975, but fully in accord with the Resurrection Hope.

Having miraculously escaped death in the 1920 disaster of Marash, he was taken into the British orphanage in Adana, Turkey. During the evacuation of Adana, the orphanage was transferred to Cyprus from where young Samuel, with his sister and aunt,

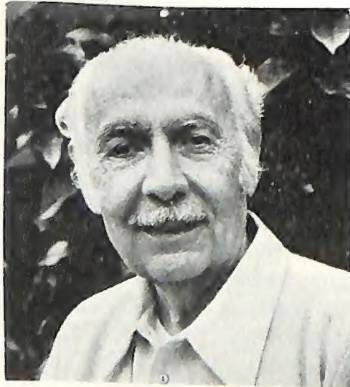


immigrated to the United States in 1921.



Although Samuel came out alive from the holocaust, the kidney disease he had contracted subjected him to medical care for over 30 years. He was bedridden during the last four years when he literally struggled with life. Funeral services were held at the Armenian Evangelical Church in Farmington, Michigan, with the Rev. Dr. Vahan Tootikian officiating. The pastor gave a beautiful sermon on this occasion to the multitude of family and friends present entitled, "I am the Life and the Truth, the Resurrection and the Life."

Samuel Soghomonian is survived by his brother, Avedis Soghomonian, his aunt, Maritza (Kumruian) Khachigian, and many friends and relatives. To the kin, the AMAA extends its sincere sympathies.



VARTAN TOZJIAN

Mr. Vartan Tozjian, a survivor of the Turkish massacres of 1915-1918, died on January 13, 1976, in Santa Barbara. Born on March 7, 1903, in Marash, Turkey, he immigrated to the United States in 1921, settling in Troy, New York. In 1943 he married Rena Toolajian of Troy and five years later they moved to California to establish

the firm Tozjian Studio Interiors in Santa Barbara.

Memorial services for Vartan were held in the First Congregational Church with the Rev. Frederic B. James officiating. Mr. Tozjian was active in the First Congregational Church.

Surviving is his widow, Rena Tozjian, to whom the Board of Directors of the Armenian Missionary Association extend sincere sympathies and also thank the family for designating in lieu of flowers donations in favor of the AMAA and its missionary outreach.

MAKSOD G. KALFAIAN

Funeral Services for Maksoud Kalfa-



ian were held at the Armenian Evangelical Church in New York City, presided over by the Reverends Bedikian and Sulahian. Maksoud Kalfaian, a 1906 sixteen-year old immigrant, joined his father Dircan to start a family business in 1917 known as the D. Kalfaian & Son, Inc.

Mr. Kalfaian was married to Aghavni Darakjian in 1929 and they had three sons, Aram, George and Richard. He was an inspiration to his sons and devoted his life to the upbuilding of our Armenian heritage. Through the AGBU, of whose Central Committee he was a member for four years, he initiated the idea of the AGBU Junior League. His Armenian heritage took special "Wings" with his affiliation with the Knights of Vartan of which he became a Commander. He was also a member of the Pan Sebastia Rehabilitation Union, Inc., which organization has given substantial assistance to the A.M.A.A.

His strength, leadership and service inspired many young men of his days and it is our hope that his memory as well as dream will live in the lives of our youth.

Sincere Condolences

The AMAA Board would like to take this opportunity to extend its heartfelt condolences to the families of the deceased through the medium of this Newsletter.

- \*Mr. John Der Boghosian  
California  
Mrs. Hayganoush Halajian  
Cambridge, MA November 14, 1975
- \*Mrs. Louise Hintlian  
California  
Mr. Milton J. Humphrey  
Burgaw, NC December 22, 1975
- Mr. George Hovagimian  
Woodside, NY January 23, 1976
- \*Mr. Leo Kaprielian  
Reedley, CA
- \*Mr. Douglas Karjian  
Arlington, MA
- Mrs. V. Kevorkian  
San Diego, CA
- \*Mr. John Kachigian  
Visalia, CA
- \*Mr. Garabed Koundakjian  
Belmont, MA June, 1975
- Mr. Markar Margosian  
Bronx, NY December 22, 1975
- \*Mrs. Gulenia Mashikian  
Torrance, CA
- \*Mr. Hagop Matosian  
Paterson, NJ
- Mr. Ernest Mooshian  
Philadelphia, PA January 6, 1976
- Mr. Edward Hampden Nahigian  
Belmont, MA November 10, 1975
- Mrs. Rose (Moses) Nahigian  
West Newton, MA September, 1975
- Mr. Lyle Papajian  
Fresno, CA November 21, 1975
- \*Mrs. Helen Saatjian  
Long Beach, CA
- \*Mrs. Veronica Sadoian  
Dinuba, CA
- \*Mrs. Esther Sarajian  
New Haven, CT November 12, 1975
- Mr. Samuel Soghomonian  
Ferndale, MI October 13, 1975
- \*Dr. Haig Solakian  
Branford, CT January 30, 1976
- \*Mr. Vartan Tozjian  
Santa Barbara, CA January 12, 1976
- Mrs. Ephronia Yaghsizian  
Hull, MA
- \*Mrs. Terfanda Guekguezian  
Paramus, N.J. February 16, 1976
- \*Mrs. Nuvart Martha Torykian  
San Francisco, CA February 6, 1976
- Mrs. Victoria Sirabonian  
Upper Darby, PA Dec.28, 1975

\*Signifies that memorials were designated for AMAA

Armenian Missionary Association Projects  
Return Reply Form

(Check the appropriate boxes, then tear out this form and mail in your envelope)

My check or money order for \$ \_\_\_\_\_ is enclosed for the project listed below

My Name \_\_\_\_\_

Street \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

I'M INTERESTED IN:

- ☐ AEU-NA ONE MILLION DOLLAR CAMPAIGN  
Your assistance to this Campaign will go a long way to strengthen our Churches. \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ HAIGAZIAN COLLEGE  
To put the college on its pre-Lebanon-civil-strife status, \$250,000 are required. \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ ISTANBUL YOUTH HOME  
Illiterate children from the interior of Turkey are taught their Christian heritage and national identity. \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ 10 HIGH AND 40 ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS  
To put these schools back on their pre-Lebanon-civil-strife level, and to assist teachers who received no salaries for six months. There is need for \$500,000. \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ TRAINING OF THEOLOGICAL STUDENTS  
Scholarship provisions will bring great spiritual returns. \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ RECRUITMENT OF MINISTERIAL CANDIDATES  
The Executive Director will be going on a recruiting tour soon. Contributions to the cost of the program and scholarships are being called for. \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ LUNCH FOR CHILDREN  
Lunch arrangements for needy children are carried out in Turkey, Lebanon, Syria, Greece and Iran. Help needed. \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ CAMPS FOR CHILDREN  
Such provision for needy children exists in Turkey, Lebanon, Syria, Greece, and Iran. Let us use these opportunities for the upbuilding of youth. \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ MEDICAL EXPENSES  
Regular appeals are made to the AMAA to assist with the medical expenses of the poor. Help us to help them, please. \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ RELIEF FOR LEBANON
- ☐ SOUTH AMERICAN MISSION \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ INSTITUTE FOR THE ARMENIAN BLIND AND DEAF  
The AMAA represents the Institute and transmits all donations to the Institute. Feel free to use our channel. \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ AGHABEGIAN(MAHSHIGIAN) MISSION TO IRAN  
Our missionary to Iran needs greater assistance for her Sunday School, Daily Vacation Bible School, Christian Endeavor, Youth Work and Evangelism in camps in Tehran and surroundings. \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ CHILD EVANGELISM  
Your donations for this purpose may be marked for the following:
  - ☐ Mrs. Hasmig (Donabedian) Collier, Beirut \$ \_\_\_\_\_
  - ☐ Christian Endeavor Union, Kchag, Lebanon \$ \_\_\_\_\_
  - ☐ Mrs. Arpine (Mahshigian) Aghabegian, Tehran and Isfahan, Iran \$ \_\_\_\_\_
  - ☐ The Rev. Krikor Demirjian, Athens, Greece \$ \_\_\_\_\_
  - ☐ Mr. and Mrs. George Manoukian, Beirut, Lebanon \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ ADULT EVANGELISM  
We are "enablers" in the preaching of the Gospel in word and print. Without such encouragement, all of our helpers would suffer in their efforts to reach people.
  - ☐ Misak Gunay in Istanbul and his publication *Sevgi Yolu* \$ \_\_\_\_\_
  - ☐ Tchanasser, bi-monthly of Beirut \$ \_\_\_\_\_
  - ☐ Pamper, monthly of France \$ \_\_\_\_\_
  - ☐ Rev. Yesayi Sarmazian's Amanos Mission, Lebanon \$ \_\_\_\_\_
  - ☐ Rev. Barkev Orchanian's Latakia Mission, Syria \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ PUBLICATIONS
  - ☐ Armenian-American Outlook, Paramus, N.J. \$ \_\_\_\_\_
  - ☐ AMAA Newsletter, Paramus, N.J. \$ \_\_\_\_\_

☐ I WOULD LIKE TO HAVE MY NAME AND ADDRESS ADDED TO YOUR MAILING LIST

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Street \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

☐ MY ADDRESS HAS CHANGED. MY CORRECT ADDRESS IS AS FOLLOWS: (Please include old address label)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Street \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_



ARMENIAN MISSIONARY ASSOCIATION

140 Forest Avenue

PARAMUS, N. J. 07652

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**CONTEST FOR  
A NEW NAME AND LOGOS  
  
FOR  
THE AMAA NEWSLETTER  
  
\$50 TO THE WINNER**

THE ARMENIAN MISSIONARY ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA, INC. HEREBY ANNOUNCES A CONTEST FOR *NEW NAME AND LOGOS* FOR THE PRESENT "AMAA NEWSLETTER."

THE *NAME* AND *LOGOS* MUST CONTAIN MISSIONARY OUTREACH AND STEWARDSHIP CONCEPTS WITHIN IT. THE COMPETITION IS OPEN UNTIL THE MIDDLE OF JULY, 1976. CONTESTANTS WILL PLEASE SEND IN THEIR *FORMAT* TO:

The AMAA, c/o The Special Contest Committee  
140 Forest Avenue,  
Paramus, New Jersey 07652

